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### THE PSALMS IN VERSE.\*

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Dr. Coles, the author of this version of the Psalms, is already well known as a skilled translator of hymns in foreign tongues. His versions of the *Dies Irae* have received high praise. To translate successfully the Praise-songs of Israel into prose is no light task. Still more difficult must it be to put them into the metrical forms of English poetry. Dr. Coles is the first to confess that he has not reached the ideal. He has done well. Many of his renderings are both faithful and musical at the same time. His aim is expressed by himself "to be literal, but not so literal as to convert rich prose into poor verse; to be a faithful but not too punctual an interpreter; to get as close to the Hebrew original as possible, and present as far as the two idioms would allow the precise form and color of the Hebrew thought; to transfer wherever he could the exact phraseology, hallowed and familiar, of the Received or Revised version; and to use no more words than sufficed to express the meaning of the text." As a sample of the work done a selection from Psalm 24, verses 7-10, is subjoined:

Lift up your heads, ye ancient gates!  
 Ye everlasting doors, give way!  
 For lo! the King of Glory waits,  
 And means to enter in to-day.  
 "Who is this King of Glory? Who?"  
 Jehovah, mighty to subdue.

Lift up your heads, ye ancient gates!  
 Ye everlasting doors, give way!  
 For lo! the King of Glory waits,  
 And means to enter in to-day.  
 "Who is this King of Glory, then?"  
 The Lord of angels and of men.

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\* A NEW RENDERING OF THE HEBREW PSALMS INTO ENGLISH VERSE, with Notes, critical, etc., and an historical sketch of the French, English and Scotch metrical versions. By Abraham Coles, M. D., LL. D. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1888. Pp. lxviii, 296.